

House Republican Press Release

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Alberts Pushing for Caps on Medical Lawsuits



State Rep. Mike Alberts, R-50th, Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, Woodstock, today pledged to work with the governor to make her medical malpractice reform proposal even stronger—with the imposition of caps on non-economic damages.

Rep. Alberts said, “I commend Governor Rell for recognizing the challenges facing the physicians of northeastern Connecticut, but I don't believe her reforms go far enough to constrain the costs of delivering high-quality health care.”

He said the governor has put an important objective on the table in this debate. “Under her proposal,” Alberts said, “medical malpractice insurance rates must drop at least 15% over the next three years or caps will be implemented. My biggest fear is that over the next three years, we will continue to see an erosion in the delivery of quality health care, physicians are not going to relocate to northeastern Connecticut and many of the physicians that are here will not continue to practice.”

Rep. Alberts also expressed concern for the economic health of local hospitals such as Day Kimball Hospital and Windham Hospital. “Their continued ability to serve the folks of northeastern Connecticut depends in large part on success in recruiting physicians to this region,” said Alberts.

“My preference clearly would have been for the Governor's proposal to include an immediate \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages,” said Alberts. “I do recognize that the Governor's proposal is just that, a starting point. Toward the goal of finding solutions I look forward to helping shape the final legislation that gets presented before the General Assembly and then to the Governor for her signature.”

Rep. Alberts serves the 50th Assembly District of Brooklyn, Eastford, Hampton, Pomfret, and Woodstock.